

I am pleased to announce that the South Dakota Development Center is planning a centennial celebration on September 20, 2002. The centennial celebration includes a rededication of several buildings on campus, an award ceremony, a luncheon, special afternoon activities, and an evening social at the local VFW for returning former employees, dignitaries, special guests and friends.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the South Dakota Development Center for its 100 years of outstanding service. It is an honor for me to share with my colleagues the exemplary leadership and strong commitment to individuals with developmental disabilities that the South Dakota Development Center has provided. I strongly commend their years of hard work and dedication, and I am very pleased that their substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated.●

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN TATE: DELAWARE'S FIREMAN OF THE YEAR

● Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, over the past year, our Nation has endured heartbreak and celebrated heroes, especially the members of the fire service who, in a very profound sense, became the face of America on that fateful day last September.

In my State of Delaware, we celebrate a very special hero of our fire service, Norman Tate, who has been chosen as the 2002 Delaware Volunteer Fireman's Association Fireman of the Year.

The truth is, Norm Tate has earned this award—and could have received it deservedly—in any number of years. He has been a firefighter with the Seaford Volunteer Fire Department since 1959, and now holds Life Member status. He has served in, literally, every administrative office of his department, and on the ambulance squad; he has twice been named Seaford's Fireman of the Year—the only member ever, in a century-long history, to receive the award more than once, and again, he could have received it, and deserved it, just about any year.

Norm has also been the Fireman of the Year for Sussex County and for the Delmarva Volunteer Fireman's Association, and was instrumental in setting up the Delaware Volunteer Fireman's Association, DVFA, State Conference. He did the hard organizational and persuasive work of committee chairman, and has been honored with the title of President Emeritus of DVFA.

Beyond the fire service, Norm Tate has been a leader in the Seaford Lions Club, and received the Lion of the Year Award. He also received the "Voice of the Blue Jays" award for outstanding service to the Seaford School District, and the Distinguished Service Award from the City of Seaford.

In short, Norman Tate defines citizen-leadership. He is the extraordinary

ordinary American who becomes a hero, not by ambition but in response to the needs of his community and his country. He has a deep sense of responsibility, as well as pride, arising from his citizenship; he looks for opportunities to help; he undertakes service as a privilege.

Norm Tate is being honored as Delaware's Volunteer Fireman of the Year, as his beloved Seaford Volunteer Fire Department celebrates 100 years of service to the community. There could not be—at Seaford or in any fire company a more appropriate honoree in such a meaningful anniversary year.

Norm Tate is, quite simply, the best, and as the fellow citizens he has served so well, we in Delaware are proud to honor him; as his friend, I am privileged to know him, and blessed by the influence of his generous and gracious spirit.●

MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

● Mr. CLELAND. Madam President, 27 years ago the National Medical Association and other prominent organizations endorsed the development of the Medical School at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. This came in light of studies that revealed, first, a severe shortage of African-American and other minority physicians in the United States, particularly in Georgia, and, second, that African-Americans suffered disproportionately from major diseases. Since its inception, Morehouse School of Medicine has worked to help solve our Nation's healthcare crisis by graduating top-quality physicians who dedicate themselves to serving the more than 32 million people in this country who live in medically neglected communities. Seventy percent of Morehouse School of Medicine graduates practice in underserved communities.

The entering M.D. class has grown from 24 students in 1978 to its current 44. Each year, more than 20,000 Georgians who are disadvantaged are served by approximately 30 community health promotion projects sponsored by Morehouse School of Medicine. These projects include prevention initiatives associated with substance abuse, teen pregnancy, geriatric services, cancer, lead poisoning, and violence prevention. In addition, Morehouse School of Medicine faculty provides about 75,000 patient encounters per year in community clinics throughout metropolitan Atlanta. The student body of Morehouse School of Medicine continues to excel. For the past few years, 100 percent of the school's family medicine residents have passed their board exams in their first sitting.

These accomplishments grow out of strong leadership, beginning with the vision of Dr. Hugh M. Gloster of Morehouse College and Morehouse School of Medicine's founding dean and first president, Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, and continuing with Dr. James R. Gavin,

the current president. Since its inception in 1975, Morehouse School of Medicine has established a four-year medical education program, a master of public health program, a Ph.D. program in the biomedical sciences, seven residency programs, and several centers of excellence. These centers include the Neuroscience Institute, the Cardiovascular Research Institute, and the NASA/Space Medicine and Life Science Research Center, the first of its kind at a minority medical institution.

Today we celebrate the new home of one of those centers of excellence, the National Center for Primary Care. This state-of-the-art facility will house an exceptional team of administrators, educators, and researchers devoted to eliminating health disparities in this country.

Georgia should, indeed, be grateful for this new jewel in our crown. Under the guidance of former Surgeon General David Satcher, Director of the National Center for Primary Care, this healthcare think tank is poised to educate and illuminate for decades to come.●

ON THE DEDICATION OF THE YSMAEL R. VILLEGAS MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIVERSIDE, CALI- FORNIA

● Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, on September 6, the new Ysmael R. Villegas Middle School will be dedicated in Riverside, CA. This day will hold a particularly special meaning for the people of Riverside, as this new school is named for one of the community's most distinguished military heroes, Staff Sgt. Ysmael R. Villegas, an Hispanic-American killed in the line of duty during World War II. He died only one day before his 21st birthday and received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery.

Sergeant Villegas, a resident of Casa Blanca in the Riverside community, received the prestigious Congressional Medal of Honor for his valiant bravery while defending our country in the Philippines. His citation, in part, reads:

He moved boldly from man to man, in the face of bursting grenades and demolition charges, through heavy machinegun and rifle fire, to bolster the spirit of his comrades. As he neared his goal, he was hit and killed by enemy fire. Through his heroism and indomitable fighting spirit, Staff Sergeant Villegas, at the cost of his life, inspired his men to a determined attack in which they swept the enemy from the field.

It is clear from these words that Sergeant Villegas was truly a great American war hero. The people of Riverside have every reason to memorialize him and I am pleased that the Alvord Unified School District will give him this lasting legacy.

As the Alvord Unified School District and the City of Riverside celebrate the dedication of the Ysmael R. Villegas Middle School, I extend my best wishes